

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-7, 22, 24-26, 32, and 34 will be pending in the present application. Claims 8-21, 23, 27-31, and 33 have been cancelled.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 1-7, 32, and 34 are allowed, and that claims 23-26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has adopted the Examiner's suggestion and amended independent claim 22 to include the limitations of allowable dependent claim 23 (claim 23 has been cancelled). Claims 24-26 have been amended to dependent from claim 22. Accordingly, claims 1-7, 22, 24-26, 32, and 34 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,484,719 to Bethon-Jones ("the '719 patent"). Applicant respectfully submits that this has been overcome for the reasons presented above. Namely, the limitations of allowable dependent claim 23 have been added to independent claim 22. Thus, claim 22 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicant wishes to stress that in amending independent claim 22 to include the limitations of dependent claim 23, applicant does not agree with the rejection of claim 22. Rather, the amendments above are made to expedite allowance of the present application. Applicant continues to maintain that the independent claim 22 is patentably distinguishable over the cited references for the reasons presented in prior Amendments, and reserves the right to file a further application to address this rejection.

This response is being filed within the three-month statutory response period which expires on July 19, 2010. In addition, no additional claim fees are believed to be required as a result of the above amendments to the claims. Nevertheless, the Commission is authorized to charge any fee required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 to deposit account no. 14-1270.

All objections and rejections have been addressed. It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to the effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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